

REMARKS

Claims 1-7, 10, 11, 14-17, 19-22, 25-27, 32, 33, and 41-44 are pending in the present application. Claims 13, 23, and 24 are hereby canceled. Claims 1-5, 7, 11, 14, 16, 19-21, 25-27, 32, and 41 have been amended. Claims 1, 16, 27, and 41 are independent claims. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider the outstanding rejections in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

Telephonic Interview of April 1, 2009

Applicant wishes to thank Examiner Suzanne Lo for taking the time to discuss the present application with Applicant's representative, Jason Rhodes (Reg. No. 47,305) during the telephonic interview of April 1, 2009. The substance of the interview is provided below.

Claims Discussed: Claims 1 and 16.

Prior Art Discussed: Generally, the parties discussed the claims in view of Kitahara, Shoji, Microsoft Flight Simulator, and NOAA.

Proposed Amendments: Applicant's representative presented the Examiner with proposed amendments to claims 1 and 16 for discussion. The proposed amendments have been incorporated above, with additional revisions to the preambles as requested by the Examiner during the interview.

General Results: The Examiner said that the proposed amendments were heading in the right direction with respect to the cited references. However, the Examiner needed to review the cited references in more detail before she could determine whether the proposed amendments would overcome the rejections.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-6, 10, 11, 14-17, 19-22, 25-27, 32, 33, and 41-44 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0089514 to Kitahara et al. (hereafter “Kitahara”) in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0032053 to Shoji et al. (hereafter “Shoji”), *Microsoft Flight Simulator: Information Manual and Flight Handbook* published by Microsoft Corp. (hereafter “Microsoft Flight Simulator”), and printouts of “National Weather Service” web pages by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (hereafter “NOAA”). Further, claim 7 stands rejected under § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kitahara in view of NOAA, Shoji, and Microsoft Flight Simulator. These rejections, insofar as they pertain to the presently pending claims, are respectfully traversed.

To establish *prima facie* obviousness of a claimed invention, all the claim limitations must be taught or suggested by the prior art. *In re Royka*, 490 F.2d 981, 180 USPQ 580 (CCPA 1974). Applicant respectfully submits that the prior art fails to provide a teaching or suggestion of all of the features in the claimed invention.

Claims 1, 16, 27, and 41 are the remaining independent claims in the currently amended claim set. Each of these claims has been amended to more clearly recite that user inputs define the weather conditions for a particular location represented by a user-selected cell. For instance, according to claim 1, the user selects from a plurality of possible weather conditions for the selected cell. According to claim 16, the user selects whether or not each of a plurality of weather conditions are to be applied to the selected cell. Further, claims 27 and 41 recite that the user specifies or defines weather conditions for the selected cell.

None of the applied references, taken separately or in obvious combination, teaches or suggests allowing a user to select a particular location within a virtual geographical area, and then input his/her selection of possible weather conditions to be applied in that particular location.

Kitahara discloses a system for printing computer images by obtaining the source data, converting the color values into luminance values, and assigning printable colors to each luminance value (abstract; paragraph 0013). In Kitahara, the conversion of color data to luminance data is performed automatically, not based on user input. Further, Kitahara has nothing to do with defining weather conditions. Thus, Kitahara fails to teach or suggest anything related to a user selecting a location and defining weather conditions for that location.

Shoji's invention divides a map of world into global areas, and further divides global areas into local areas (paragraph 0012). In Shoji, area information for each local area is given in advance, including whether the area is land or sea, presence of mountains and flat areas, ratio of land to lakes, etc. (paragraphs 0014, 0160). Shoji further uses a weather behavior model to generate cyclically changing weather conditions (e.g., amount of sunshine per unit time) for each global area at predetermined intervals (paragraphs 0012-13). Then, the specific weather conditions of an arbitrary local area are generated based on the cyclical weather conditions, the area information, and a correlation with the weather conditions of other local areas in the neighborhood (paragraph 0015). As such, Shoji's behavior model is responsible for determining weather conditions for each local area, not the user.

Microsoft Flight Simulator inputs settings (season of the year, presences of clouds and/or thunderstorms, etc.) for a current location of the plane (page 65). It does not allow a user to select the particular location in a general geographical area in which the settings are to be applied. Also, Microsoft Flight Simulator does not allow the user to input different conditions for each individual cell, as required by the claims.

At most, **NOAA** discloses a map which graphically illustrates a particular weather condition which is automatically determined by weather radars. This has nothing to do with allowing a user to define a weather condition for a particular location.

As such, Applicant respectfully submits that the cited references, taken separately or in obvious combination, fail to teach or suggest receiving a user input to select a cell representing a

particular location within a virtual geographical area, and further receiving user inputs to define the weather conditions for the location represented by the selected cell, as presently claimed. As such, the cited references do not teach or suggest a mechanism the user can define different weather conditions for each individual cell in the multi-dimensional arrays, as claimed.

At least for the reasons set forth above, Applicant respectfully submits that independent claims 1, 16, 27, and 41 are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, claims 2-6, 10, 11, 15-17, 19-22, 25, 26, 32, and 33 are allowable at least by virtue of their dependency on an allowable independent claim. Therefore, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw these rejections.

Conclusion

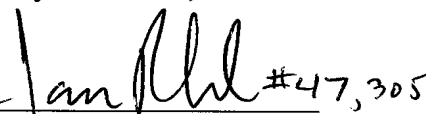
In view of the above amendments and remarks, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider the outstanding rejections and issue a Notice of Allowance in the present application.

Should the Examiner believe that any outstanding matters remain in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Jason W. Rhodes (Reg. No. 47,305) at the telephone number of the undersigned to discuss the present application in an effort to expedite prosecution.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

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Respectfully submitted,

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